



17302 U.S.P.T.O.  
10/734167  
121503

2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20037-3213

T 202.293.7060  
F 202.293.7860

1010 El Camino Real  
Menlo Park, CA 94025-4345  
T 650.325.5800  
F 650.325.6606

Toei Nishi Shimbashi Bldg. 4F  
13-5 Nishi Shimbashi 1-Chome  
Minato-Ku, Tokyo 105-0003  
Japan  
T 03.3503.3760  
F 03.3503.3756

[www.sughrue.com](http://www.sughrue.com)

**MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 15, 2003

Re: Application of Yoshihiro KATSUMATA and Hideya KINOSHITA  
INK WASTAGE ABSORBER AND INK SUPPORTER  
**Assignee: BRIDGESTONE CORPORATION**  
Our Ref: Q78821

Dear Sir:

This is a request for a Divisional Application of pending prior Application No. 09/987,077 (Confirmation No. 6412) filed November 13, 2001 of Yoshihiro KATSUMATA and Hideya KINOSHITA, entitled INK WASTAGE ABSORBER AND INK SUPPORTER, which is a divisional of Application No. 09/630,716 filed August 2, 2000, now U.S. Patent 6,337,354.

This application is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b). Enclosed is a specification, including the claims and abstract, a copy of the Declaration as filed in the prior application. Also enclosed is a Preliminary Amendment and a form PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) listing references cited by applicant and/or the examiner during prosecution of the parent applications.

The prior application is assigned to Group Art Unit 1711.

The entire disclosures of the parent applications, application numbers 09/987,077 and 09/630,716, filed November 13, 2001 and August 2, 2000, respectively, are considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying divisional application and are hereby incorporated by reference.

Foreign Priority is claimed from:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Application No</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
Japan	11-219465	August 3, 1999
Japan	11-219466	August 3, 1999

The priority documents were filed in parent Application No. 09/630716.



Transmittal Letter For:  
Divisional Application of Application No. 09/987,077  
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The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	28	-	20	=	8	x	\$18.00	=	\$144.00
Independent claims	1	-	3	=		x	\$86.00	=	\$0.00
Base Fee									\$770.00
Multiple Dependent Claim Fee									\$290.00
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<b>TOTAL FILING FEE</b>									<b>\$1,204.00</b>
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A check for the statutory fee of **\$1,204.00** is attached. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

The application is timely filed.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Attorneys for Applicant

By Lee C. Wright  
Lee C. Wright  
Registration No. 41,441

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
**23373**  
CUSTOMER NUMBER